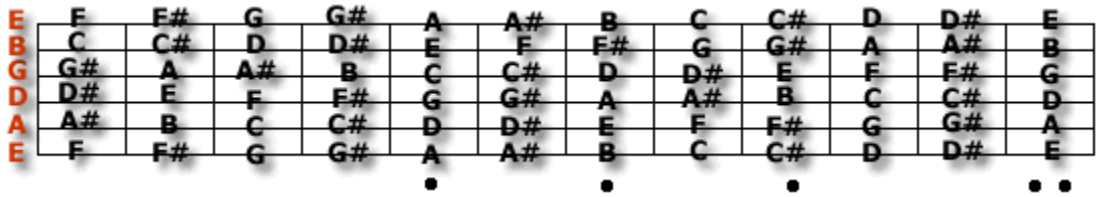
Diatonic Harmony

- The musical alphabet goes from A to G (there is no “H, I, J” etc.)
- A half-step is the distance between one fret and the next on the guitar
- A whole-step is equal to two half-steps or two frets distance
- A sharp(#) is when we raise a pitch by a half step
- A flat(b) is when we lower a pitch by a half step
- Every note has a sharp, except for **B** and **E**

So the musical alphabet reads like this: **A A# B C C# D D# E F F# G G#**



If W=whole step and H=half step then:
Major Scale= W W H W W W H

Scale steps: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8(or 1)
Distance between notes: W - W - H - W - W - W – H

Have you heard the vocal exercise “Do-Re-Mi-Fa-So-La-Ti-Do”? Those are the musical steps for the major scale…or “Do Re Mi” by Julie Andrews in “Sound of Music”? That is a song based on the Major Scale steps. It is VERY important to learn the major scale if you want a good foundation for learning everything else on the guitar. It is the basis of music theory which is the field of study that deals with the mechanics of music and how music works

Definitions to know
Interval-the distance between two notes
Chord-3 or more notes played together
Arpeggio-broken chord, or notes from a chord played apart from each other
Major Chord-1st, 3rd and 5th scale steps (notes) from the Major Scale
1,3,5
Minor Chord-1st, b3rd and 5th scale steps (notes) from the Major Scale
1,b3,5

Fill in the notes below starting with the open strings. Put your answer directly on the string (not above or below), like the example above. Don’t cheat! Use the concepts 1. Musical alphabet is A-G and 2. Every note has a sharp EXCEPT for B & E (very important to memorize your fretboard).